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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT Activity of the Czechoslovak Elbe-Oder Navigation
Society/Impact of Currency Reform

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Ceskoslovenska Labsko - Orderska Plavebni Spolecnost

1. the Czech shipping firm Ceskoslovenska Labsko-Oderska Plavebni Spolecnost (CSPL - Czechoslovak Elbe-Oder Navigation Society)
2. "The head offices of CSPL are located at Masarykova 4, Prague I.
General Manager - [fnu] Cafourek
Personnel officers - Jaroslav Kratky and [fnu] Bavorak (CP officials)
3. "Vessels owned by CSPL :
 - a. vessels with 200 HP Diesel engines, home port in Prague harbor, service on the Prague - Usti nad Labem line.
 - b. The Vltava (200 HP, Diesel engine), home port in Usti nad Labem, service on the Usti nad Labem - Hrensko line. The Smichov and Liben (200 HP, Diesel engines) were transferred to service on the Oder River.
 - c. Duchcov, Karlin, Lovosice and Litomerice (400 HP or more, Diesel engines) -- home port in Usti nad Labem, service on the Usti nad Labem - Magdeburg line. Also the Tabor, Blanik and Morava (520 HP, Diesel engines).

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- d. Kolin, Melnik and Praha (700 - 1000 HP, Diesel engines) -- home port in Magdeburg, service on the Magdeburg-Hamburg line.
- e. Sokolovo and Dukla (over 1000 HP, Diesel engines) -- under repair at the shipyard at Usti nad Labem / [] note: Text rather garbled at this point / The Sokolovo made its first trials [] but the cylinder bosses of the Diesel engines burst.

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4. "As for shipyard activity:

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- a. Most of the tugs for river navigation are built in the CKD (Ceskoslovenska Kolben-Danek) shipyard at Liben. The Tatra, a 1000 HP Diesel engine vessel, is under construction at Liben now, along with another vessel of the same size as yet unnamed.
- b. The Komarno shipyard on the Danube took some 150 skilled ship-builders from CKD Liben [] the Komarno shipyard requested more workers with the same degree of skill. It is said that the Komarno shipyard is building submarines for the Soviet Navy, river vessels and large river dredges (bagr).

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5. "There has been a shortage of lubricants which has caused engine damage. River vessels have also been damaged, especially on the Elbe, by inexperienced pilots. The old pilots were transferred to heavy industry.

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7.

8. "Decin is the training center for CSPL sailors. All internats are located there. The boys take a two-year course. The most important subjects are navigation, hydrography, ship construction, mathematics, Czech language, Russian language, political indoctrination (daily). [] engineers have had to study at the same school.

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9. "There is no political education aboard the river vessels, but the CP members hold meetings.

Impact of Currency Reform

10. [] news of the currency reform on the Czech news broadcasts [] Most workers did not have the prescribed 300 Kc which could be changed at five to one. The Prague waterfront workers and shipyard joiners began to strike the first of June, because they had no new money. They got the advance of 100 Kc in the new currency []

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The sailors got their advance of 100 Kc [redacted] The Liben shipyards were shut down [redacted] the workers had gone on strike because they had received no new currency. Plenty of workers at CKD Liben were arrested and not released, although the other workers demanded their immediate release by the police as a condition before ending the strike. The workers at Stredoceske Mlyny (Central Bohemian Mills) at Praha-Holesovice were on strike [redacted] The workers at CKD Vysocany, the large factory which is building trucks and locomotives, were on strike [redacted]

the strikes in Pilsen.

The whole town was encircled by SNB and STB units armed with submachine guns and hand grenades. All pedestrians were checked by SNB guards. The streets were empty. Hundreds of workers were arrested during the riots.

10. "The captain of the river vessel Ludmila had received 900 Kc a week in the old currency. After the reform he received 800 Kc in the new currency for the whole month of May. He also gets an allowance of 20 Kc per day when sailing in foreign countries; sailors get 10 Kc per day when sailing in foreign countries."

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